

REMARKS

Claims 7-16 are pending and have been examined in the present application. Claims 7, 10-12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,795). Claims 7 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Shimoji, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,716). Claims 7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Stein, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,452). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over either Shimoji or Stein. Claim 8 was indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and below remarks.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because they fail to show the groove on the surface as described in claim 15. The rejection of the drawings has been rendered moot as the Applicant has cancelled claim 15.

Claim 8 was indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 8 is hereby canceled and independent claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 8.

Claims 7, 10-12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Sato. Claims 7 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Shimoji. Claims 7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Stein. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shimoji or Stein. Claims 9-14 and 16 are dependent on and include all of the limitations of amended base claim 7. The limitation of allowable claim 8 have been integrated in independent claim 7. Therefore, claim 7 and its dependant claim 9-15 and 16 are patentable.

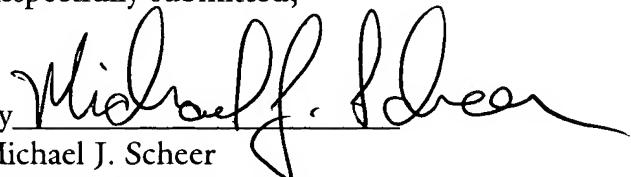
Application No.: 10/092,552

Docket No.: N0029.0002

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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